Decrease in milch cattle

†*158. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of milch cattle is decreasing constantly in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated decrease in percentage till 2004 as compared to 1990 and the total number of milch cattle in the country during 2004;

(c) whether it is also a fact that production of milk has increased in the country; and

(d) if so, the percentage increase in milk production and the quantity of milk production estimated in the country during 2004?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) While there was a slight increase in the number of milch cattle as per 16th Livestock Census, conducted in 1997, compared to the 15th Livestock Census, condcuted in 1992, there has been a slight reduction in the number of milch cattle as per the 17th Livestock Census conducted in 2003, compared to the 16th Livestock Census. The total number of milch cattle in the country as per the 17th Livestock Census (2003) is 58.09 million, which is about 0.51% higher compared to the number of milch cattle as per the 15th Livestock Census (1992). The number of milch buffaloes, has, however, been regularly increasing.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During 2003-04, the production of milk in the country was estimated to be 88.1 million tonnes. Increase in milk production in 2003-04 over 2002-03 was 2.20%.

Sugar dealing licence system

*159. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring sugar dealing licence system in operation'to control the increase in the prices of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.